

Remarks

Figure 1 has been amended as required by the Examiner.

Claims 10 and 22 have been objected to because of certain informalities. The Examiner has suggested changing "each closed conduit" to "each of said conduit" and changing "each insulating material" to "said insulating material." While applicant believes that the claims as currently formulated are clear and present proper antecedent basis, the suggestions of the Examiner have been added to the claims in the interest of advancing the prosecution.

Turning to the 112 rejection, claims 4 and 13 have been amended to make clear that the "signal voltage" recited in those claims is the "signal voltage" recited in claims 1 and 12, from which they respectively depend.

Turning to the art rejections, and considering first the rejection of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gruchalla et al. ("Gruchalla"), Gruchalla discloses a non-linear transmission line formed in an integrated circuit device in a doped layer between electrodes formed in the integrated circuit. Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the recited transmission line interconnects a plurality of integrated circuits, and just as claim 2 is deemed patentable over the art, the claimed subject matter of claim 12 and the claims 13 and 14 which depend from claim 12 also should be allowable.

Turning next to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) figure 1 in view of Gruchalla,¹ as noted above, Gruchalla discloses a transmission line inside of an integrated circuit. Claims 1 and 24, as filed contain recitations that clearly distinguish over Gruchalla. Claim 1 recites that

¹ The Office Action summary page does not mention the rejection of claims 24 and 25, but they are included in the body of the Office action under the §103 rejection.

the claimed subject matter "connects to the input/output circuits of said integrated circuits". Method claim 24 similarly recites "transmitting a signal between a plurality of integrated circuits via the transmission line." The recited transmission line is, therefore, necessarily external to the respective integrated circuits, and, thus distinguishes over Gruchalla and the AAPA. There is, therefore, no *prima facie* case of obviousness, since the combination of AAPA and Gruchalla does not contain all of the claimed elements.

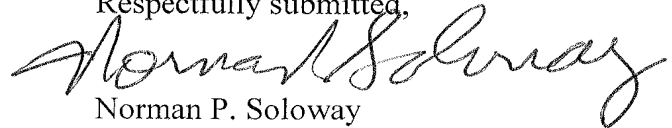
Claims 2, 3, 11, 21 and 23 depend from claim 1 or claim 12, as the case may be and are allowable over the AAPA/Gruchalla combination for the same reasons above adduced relative to claims 1 and 12, as well as for their own additional limitations.

The indicated allowability over the art of claims 2, 3, 11, 21 and 23 is noted, with thanks. However, it is believed that all of the pending claims are allowable over the art.

Having addressed all of the objections and rejections in the above noted Office Action, early and favorable disposition is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

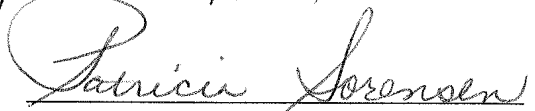
Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

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HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567